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DECEMBER 22.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Twenty-nine persons present.

A paper, entitled "Inclusions in the Granite of Craftsbury, Vermont," by Calvin McCormick, was presented for publication.

Worms in Ice.—Prof. LEIDY referred to a former communication on the occurrence of organisms in ice (see Proc. 1884, 260), and stated that Dr. S. C. Thornton, of Moorestown, N. J., a couple of weeks since, had submitted to him for examination a bottle of water from melted ice, such as was habitually used in his family, and in which he said he had observed living worms. A number of these proved to be present in the specimen, but were all dead. Having expressed a desire to confirm the statement that the worms were observed alive in the fresh ice-water, Dr. Thornton last week had obligingly sent him a basket of the ice. This was part of the provision made nearly a year ago from the vicinity of Moorestown. The ice was full of air bubbles and water drops. On being melted a number of the worms were liberated and proved to be in a living and quite active condition. It is probable that while imprisoned in the ice they may not have been frozen, but perhaps remained alive in a torpid condition in water drops. It is a remarkable fact that these animals should remain so long alive in the ice, and yet die so readily in the melted water subsequently. The worms are of the same species noticed in the ice-water of the first communication, and which was derived from similar ice procured from a mill-pond in Delaware Co., Pa. These facts would indicate that it is desirable to avoid the spongy ice from stagnant waters, as being liable to retain organisms which would be detrimental to us. In the clear ice, such as is served in Philadelphia, no living organisms are detected. The little worms of the ice appear to be an undescribed species, and may therefore be characterized as follows:—

LUMBRICUS GLACIALIS. Worm from four to six lines long, translucent white, cylindrical, anteriorly acute, tapering most behind and obtuse, of from 35 to 50 segments; oral segment with a blunt conical upper lip, unarmed and eyeless; succeeding segments with four rows of podal-spines, in fascicles of three; spines pointed at the free end and hooked at the attached end, nearly straight or slightly sigmoid; generative organs occupying the interval of the third and seventh spine bearing segments.

Thickness of worm 0.15 to 0.25 mm.; podal spines 0.3 to 0.375 mm. long.

The length given in the former notice should be in lines instead of millimetres.

DECEMBER 29.

Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN, Vice-President, in the chair.

Thirty-three persons present.

The following were ordered to be printed:—